

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and 11, cancel claims 16 and 17, and add new claims 22 to 33 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A process for providing a security document, ~~in particular a banknote,~~ with a coloured marking, comprising providing a photosensitive preparation on a portion of said document and submitting at least selected areas of said portion to a light beam, wherein said preparation is capable of forming a film on said portion and comprises a substance capable of producing colloidal metal particles or colloidal semiconducting particles under the effect of UV irradiation, and wherein said areas are irradiated by means of an UV-light beam so as to produce said colloidal particles.

2. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said preparation is an ink or varnish, is substantially transparent before said irradiation and comprises a film forming polymer and a precursor of colloidal metal particles or colloidal semiconducting particles.

3. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein said precursor is a precursor of Au, Ag or Cu colloidal particles.

4. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said preparation is an ink or varnish, is substantially transparent before said irradiation and comprises a film forming polymer and a precursor of colloidal metal particles or colloidal semiconducting particles, and

wherein said film forming polymer is a polysaccharide or polypeptide and said precursor is an inorganic gold salt or acid.

5. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein said film forming polymer is chitosan and said precursor is a chloroauric acid.

6. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of providing a photosensitive preparation on a portion of said security document comprises the steps of

- a) applying a chitosan solution onto said portion of said security ~~paper document~~ and
- b) drying said portion, so as to form a film having a thickness of between 0.5 and 20 μm
- c) applying a solution of chloroauric acid to said portion, and
- d) drying said portion in the dark

7. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of providing a photosensitive preparation on a portion of said security document ~~and further comprises~~ the steps of

- a') combining a chitosan solution and a chloroauric acid solution in a molar ratio HAuCl_4 / chitosan monomeric unit of between 0.1 and 1
- b') applying said combined solution onto said portion of said security ~~paper document~~ and
- c') drying said portion in the dark
- d') eventually repeating steps b' and c' so as to form a film having a thickness of between 0.5 and 20 μm , ~~in particular of between 2 and 10 μm .~~

8. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said irradiation is performed by means of a pulsed excimer laser.

9. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said irradiation is performed by means of a frequency-multiplied solid state Laser.

10. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the irradiation is performed by a beam deflection method via a plurality of mirrors.

11. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 10, wherein said irradiation is performed via a system of a beam scanning system, ~~in particular piloted galvanometric mirrors.~~

12. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein a diffractive network is reported into said film.

13. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein a covering layer is applied onto said film after said irradiation, said covering layer having a high absorption in the UV range and being substantially transparent in the visible light region.

14. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, and further comprising a reticulating step after development of said marking.

15. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 10, providing an identity marking to said security document.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 11, providing an identity marking to said security document.

19. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 12, providing an identity marking to said security document.

20. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 13, providing an identity marking to said security document.

21. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 14, providing an identity marking to said security document.

22. (New) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the security document is a banknote.

23. (New) A process as claimed in claim 7, wherein, in step d', a film having a thickness of between 2 and 10 μm is formed.

24. (New) A process as claimed in claim 10, wherein said irradiation is performed via a system of piloted galvanometric mirrors.

25. (New) A security document comprising a photosensitive preparation provided on a portion of the document, wherein said preparation is capable of forming a film on said portion and comprises a substance capable of producing colloidal metal or semiconducting particles under the effect of UV irradiation.

26. (New) A security document according to claim 25, wherein said preparation is an ink or varnish, is substantially transparent before irradiation, and comprises a film forming polymer and a precursor of colloidal metal particles or colloidal semiconducting particles.

27. (New) A security document according to claim 26, wherein said precursor is a precursor of Au, Ag or Cu colloidal particles.

28. (New) A security document according to claim 26, wherein said preparation is an ink or varnish, is substantially transparent before said irradiation and comprises a film forming polymer and a precursor of colloidal metal particles or colloidal semiconducting particles, and wherein said film forming polymer is a polysaccharide or polypeptide and said precursor in an inorganic gold salt or acid.

29. (New) A security document according to claim 28, wherein said film forming polymer is chitosan and said precursor is a chloroauric acid.

30. (New) A security document according to claim 25, wherein the amount of photosensitive preparation per surface unit is smaller than the amount that is necessary to produce a metallic mirror aspect.

31. (New) A security document according to claim 25, comprising a marking formed by UV irradiation of said preparation.

32. (New) A security document according to claim 25, comprising a diffractive network formed by UV irradiation of said preparation.

33. (New) A security document according to claim 31, further comprising a covering layer applied onto said film, said covering layer having a high absorption in the UV range and being substantially transparent in the visible light region.